

REMARKS

Claims 3-9, 12-15, and 18-21 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1-2, 10-11, and 16-17 are canceled without prejudice and claims 3-6, 12-15, and 18-21 are amended. In light of the amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 7-9 were previously allowed and claims 3, 12, and 18 were objected to. Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 12, and 18 in independent form and changed the dependencies of the rejected claims to now allowable claims 3, 12, and 18. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: May 12, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Ian R. Blum

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